

### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-24 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 16 are amended, Claims 3 and 10 are canceled and Claims 17-24 are withdrawn in response to a previous restriction requirement. Support for this amendment can be found at least on page 19, line 26 to page 20, line 14, page 23, line 16 to page 24, line 5 and Figs. 11 and 12. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 4 and 11 were objected to; Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 10 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese Patent JP410104314A to Oda et al. (herein "Oda"); and Claims 4-7 and 11-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,611,728 to Morioka et al. (herein "Morioka").

In response to the objection to the specification, the title has been amended to be indicative of the present invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

In response to the objection to Claims 4 and 11, Claims 4 and 11 have been amended as suggested in the Official Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 4 and 11 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 of Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 10 and 16 as anticipated by Oda.<sup>1</sup>

Claim 1 is directed to a failure analysis system including, *inter alia*, ***an index calculation module*** configured ***to calculate a scalar or quantity of a fault-extracting-index*** for extracting ***a fault mode*** based on a result of the mapping display and an index comparison

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<sup>1</sup> As Claims 3 and 10 have been canceled the rejection with respect to Claims 3 and 10 is rendered moot.

module configured *to compare a threshold of the fault-extracting-index for extracting a specific fault mode to the calculated scale or quantity of the fault-extracting-index* and determine *the presence of the specific fault mode*.

Oda describes a wafer failure analysis which analyzes the cause of a defect of a chip formed on the semiconductor wafer. As shown in Figure 1, operation part 30 reads the wafer information Wi and the chip information Ci1 and Ci2 from the defect information file F by the storage section 20 and provides a color coded display indicating which chip on a wafer is faulty. Oda does not include *a fault-extracting-index* or determine the presence of *a specific fault mode*.

Therefore, Oda does not disclose or suggest *an index calculation module* configured *to calculate a scalar or quantity of a fault-extracting-index* for extracting *a fault mode* based on a result of the mapping display and an index comparison module configured *to compare a threshold of the fault-extracting-index for extracting a specific fault mode to the calculated scale or quantity of the fault-extracting-index* and determine *the presence of the specific fault mode*.

Although different in scope Claims 8 and 16 recite “calculating a scalar quantity of a fault-extracting-index for extracting a fault mode based on a result of the matching display and determining the presence of the fault mode by comparing the scalar quantity of the fault-extracting-index with a threshold stored in a threshold information storage unit” and “an instruction of calculating a scalar quantity of a fault-extracting-index for extracting a fault mode based on a result of the mapping display and an instruction of determining the presence of the fault mode by comparing the scalar quantity of the false-extracting index with a threshold stored in a threshold information storage unit,” respectively. As discussed above, Oda does not disclose or suggest these features.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 8 and 16 and each of the claims depending therefrom be withdrawn.

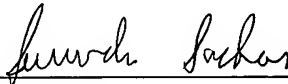
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claims 4-7 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oda in view of Morioka.

As discussed above, Oda does not disclose or suggest each element of Claims 1 and 8 from which Claims 4-7 and 11-15 depend, respectively. The remaining reference, Morioka, has been considered but does not cure the deficiencies of Oda. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 4-7 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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